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in the first instance only the external layer is sloughed off, and that between this and the next following horny layers there is a definite contrast." As we have seen, the distinguished Würzburg embryologist has expressed doubts not justified by the facts, there being an external layer which is extremely different from the horny layer, and is apparently a true epitrichium.

The human epitrichium, so far as I have observed, is developed quite late, about the fourth or fifth month, though to be sure an enlargement of the outermost epidermal cells may be observed earlier than this.

I deem it probable that the presence of the epitrichium as an intact membrane results in the retention of the secretions of the foetal sebaceous glands, and is therefore the immediate cause of that hitherto unexplained phenomenon, the formation of the so-called *vernix caseosa* of physicians.

It is not rare in science that something, easily seen, remains long overlooked, and each time we are touched by surprise when observation is thus corrected. Certainly the human skin is not a structure which the microscopist would have searched in order to discover a new layer of cells, which are easily demonstrated and very conspicuous. I may confess that I looked at the preparations, which show the epitrichium plainly, a great many times without observing at all what I now see at the first glance.—*Charles Sedgwick Minot.*

KARYOKINESIS.—In the study of karyokinesis in the arthropods, Professor J. B. Carnoy¹ obtained the best results with the two following mixtures:

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|------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| (1) ² Chromic acid (2 p. c. or more)..... | 45 parts. |
| Osmic acid (2 p. c.)..... | 16 " |
| Glacial acetic acid | 3 " |
| (2) Corrosive sublimate | |
| Glacial acetic acid (1 p. c.). | |

The object (testes) is left from six to ten minutes in one of these mixtures; then washed in distilled waters and further hardened in alcohol.

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SCIENTIFIC NEWS.

—Edward Tuckerman, professor of botany in Amherst College, died March 15, aged sixty-nine years. He was a graduate of Union College (1837), of Harvard College (1846), of the Harvard Law School (1839); studied history, philosophy and botany several years in Germany, and in 1858 was appointed to the chair of botany at Amherst College, which he held to the day of

¹ La Cytodierèse chez les Arthropodes, p. 211. (Extrait de la Revue "La Cellule," I, 20 fas., Louvain, 1885.)

² Modified form of Flemming's mixture.

his death. Distinguished as a lichenologist, Tuckerman was one of our most philosophical botanists, and a ripe scholar, with literary skill of a high order, belonging to a family well known for its literary and musical tastes. Professor Tuckerman was a pioneer in the study of the White Mountain flora. His name as an explorer will be ever remembered in the ravine of Mt. Washington, which bears his name. Among his principal works are the following: "An enumeration of North American Lichenes," 1845; "A synopsis of the Lichenes of New England, the other Northern States and British America," 1848; "Genera Lichenum: an arrangement of the North American Lichens," 1872; "A synopsis of the North American Lichens," part I, 1882. He also contributed the chapter on lichenes to the botany of Wilkes' U. S. Exploring Expedition, and was the author of a number of other papers and works.

—The annual report of the trustees of the American Museum of Natural History in Central Park, New York, for 1885-86, shows gratifying progress in the scientific development of that institution. The expenditures for maintenance were \$30,508.80, while \$6,654.16 were spent for improvements and additions to the collections; \$50,937.50, a gift of Mr. W. H. Vanderbilt, being carried to the endowment fund. The purchases include the Bailey collection of birds' nest and eggs, toward the purchase of which Mrs. Robert L. Stewart contributed \$1500.

—The celebration of the sixty-ninth year of the New York Academy of Sciences took place on the evening of May 10th, at Columbia College. Secretary H. L. Fairchild read an interesting *résumé* of the society's history. Dr. Asa Gray read his first paper before this society. Its first president was the Hon. Samuel L. Mitchell, who held the office seven years. He was succeeded by Dr. John Torrey, Major Joseph Delafield, Professor Charles A. Joy and Dr. John S. Newberry. The history of the society will form the subject of a forthcoming volume.

—From the report of the Zoölogical Society of Philadelphia it appears that, as the result of special effort, \$22,000 were raised for the present and future support of the garden. Still a large endowment fund is needed to render the garden permanent. The most remarkable addition was a pair of hairy-nosed wombats from Australia. A notable addition is three hybrids between a female *Canis latrans* and a male dog, said to be a Scotch colley.

—An interesting feature of recent numbers of the Journal of the Royal Microscopical Society has been the publication of portraits from photographs of all the presidents of the society. The April number furnishes a full-page likeness of the present president, Rev. W. H. Dallinger.

—Mr. Alfred R. Wallace, the distinguished English naturalist, is to give a course of eight lectures at the Lowell Institute, Boston, Mass., beginning in November next.

—Mr. C. W. Peach, so well known as a zealous field naturalist and collector of fossils, whose name appeared so often in Gosse's sea-side books, died in March.

—Dr. T. Spencer Cobbold, well known for his work on parasitic worms, died in London in March, aged fifty-seven.

—The eminent botanist of Liège, Professor C. J. E. Morren, died late in February at the age of fifty-three years.

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PROCEEDINGS OF SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES.

NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES.—In addition to the list of papers read at the Washington meeting the following were presented April 21st and 22d:

On color contrast. By Ogden N. Rood.

Classification of the Cambrian system of North America (by invitation). By Chas. D. Walcott.

Crystallization of platinum by means of the electric discharge in vacuo. By A. W. Wright.

The Stomatopoda of the "Challenger" collection. By W. K. Brooks.

Budding in the Tunicata. By W. K. Brooks.

Effect of magnetization on the electrical resistance of metals. By A. W. Wright.

On a proposed expedition into the interior of Greenland during the present summer with Disco as a base (by invitation). By R. E. Peary, U. S. N.

At an evening meeting of the academy the Henry Draper medal was for the first time awarded to Professor S. P. Langley for his researches on solar physics. The Watson medal, with an honorarium of one hundred dollars, was given to Dr. B. A. Gould as a recognition of his services to astronomy in founding and conducting the Cordova observatory. At the same meeting a biographical notice of the late Professor Arnold Guyot, prepared by Professor J. D. Dana, was presented, and a similar notice of the late Professor John W. Draper was read by Professor Barker.

BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON, March 6.—Communications: Dr. George Vasey, New and recent species of North American grasses; Mr. Charles Hallock, Hyper-instinct of animals; Dr. W. S. Barnard, Exhibition of a fungus, with remarks; Dr. H. G. Beyer, U. S. N., Remarks on antipyretics.

March 20.—Communications: Dr. D. E. Salmon and Dr. Th. Smith, Notes on some biological analyses of Potomac drinking-water; Dr. H. G. Beyer, U. S. N., Remarks on antipyretics; Dr. W. S. Barnard, Exhibition of a fungus, with remarks; Mr. F. H.